

*E. L. Shields Lewisburg
Pa.*

Report for 1912-'13

DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND AND THE DEAF,
PYENG YANG.

DR. ROSETTA S. HALL, DIRECTOR.



Our department for the blind and the deaf has more nearly reached my ideal this year: those pupils in it above the special preparatory grade are sharing classrooms with the normal children in Mr. Billings' day school for boys, Miss Robbins' day school for girls, and Miss Haynes' Higher school for girls, thus sharing with their more fortunate school-mates the advantages of foreign principals, Korean and Japanese

teachers, the school-buildings and equipment such as I am thoroughly convinced is not only their right but is better for them, their fellow pupils, and the communities of which, I am sure, they will prove intelligent and useful members.

The total registration for the year has been 39 as follows: 10 blind girls, 1 deaf-mute girl, and 6 deaf-mute boys in the special preparatory department; 8 blind girls, 1 deaf girl and 3 deaf boys in the first year of the primary; 2 blind girls and 1 deaf boy in the 2nd year; and 3 blind girls finished the course of the Fairfield Primary School. This makes a total registration of 35 for primary work, while in the Union Academy during the year we have had 2 blind girls in the 1st year's course, 1 in the 3rd, and 1 in the 4th.

For the new school year beginning in April, Pak Elsim and Chyo Fanny were promoted to the work of the 4th and 5th years respectively in the Union Academy; and Kwon Eun-hae and Won Susannah after taking the spring Bible class work followed by the month of "Chatauqua" secured work to earn a livelihood; they will likely in time complete the two courses mentioned but will probably not return to the Academy.

In Mr. Billings' boys' primary, Pastor Yi's son, Yi Won-syun, was promoted from 2nd to 3rd year, and in our special preparatory, 3 more boys have begun 2nd year work and will doubtless be ready to enter school with normal boys next year. One deaf girl and 3 blind ones were advanced to 1st year in Fairfield primary; and 8 blind girls from the 1st to the 2nd, and 2 blind from the 2nd to the 3rd. One of the new blind girls to enter our special preparatory came all the way from Chinju—taking the train at Fusan. She is an orphan and was a beggar with her hair cut short. She is sent to us and supported by Dr. McLaren of the Australian Presbyterian Mission, and is proving a bright girl.

One deaf-mute young man 22 years old studied with us all winter, doing janitor work in Fairfield school to earn his way but returned to his country home for farm work this spring. A wee chap of only 7 years Korean count, the son of an exhorter at Tu-ru syan, after a visit from his grandmother, got homesick and returned. Both will likely come back in the fall. Another boy brought to us from near Suwon had "too much grandmother" and went back home. His is a unique case—the first it has been my lot to meet—he is mute but not deaf.

More recently there came to us through the dispensary a strong, good-sized country boy entirely deaf but not yet a mute though his vocabulary is less than that of an 8 year old child—at which age he became deaf. As he has a married sister living in the city, we advised that he live with her and attend as a day pupil; but,

poor boy, not realizing that if he doesn't he will not only never add to his present vocabulary but will lose what he has, he seems to despise studying with our boys though they far surpass him in everything but speech. He neither reads nor writes and, since he can't hear, he is unable to know that some of our little boys have learned to speak almost as well as he can.

The last deaf boy to enter our dormitory is the son of a blind sorceress of Sam-wha; he has some paresis of the right side and at first we thought him feeble-minded, but already he has learned several characters and how to articulate them, and has brightened up so much that we are more hopeful regarding his intelligence. He is supported by the Junior League of Ridgefield, Conn., in memory of Mr. N. L. Rockwell.

Two of our deaf-mute girls, Kim Po-pai and Pak Maria, married last year, and another did not return to school after the summer. We have one new deaf-mute girl, aged 13 Korean count, who has the surname Saw but no given name. Yi Kyong-ae of Chai Ryung is still with us, and learning well. It seems a bit odd but it happens that all five of our deaf-mute girls belong to Presbyterian families.

We make use of our pupils, both deaf and blind in embossing and binding the text-books for the blind; but, as we were put to it during school hours recently in getting out an edition of 32 copies of John, for someone big enough to work the press, which goes by hand-power, we seized upon An Soon-goomie, a big but hitherto useless because feeble-minded blind girl. When she found that she could turn the crank, she delighted not only herself but us also as it gives us some hope for her future mental development. Already it has made a change in her for the better to be called upon to show off the working of the machine when company comes—she seems as proud as the others to be of some use.

Soon-goomie has given me considerable anxiety, being a mental defective and having thus far benefited by

neither our manual training nor book-learning. She is the girl whom Miss Perry's Bible woman rescued from being thrown into the river by her family who evidently knew her condition; and she is the one whom Mr. Rockwell carried to the station upon his back because she couldn't walk. Though she has learned to walk and care for herself fairly well, she has lacked the special instruction of competent teachers trained to teach imbeciles and feeble-minded.

In this connection I wish to say that I know of several other such needy ones and have long wished to see a work started in Korea for them, and hope the Government General may soon take it up. These mental defectives *should be segregated* and *kept so* or future generations in ever increasing measure will pay the penalty. By the way, there are said to be 300,000 of this class in the United States only 10% of whom are in proper institutions!

One of our pressing needs has been generously supplied this year by the American Bible Society; we are most grateful to Dr. Haven for so sympathetically listening to our appeal and promptly sending us the long-wished for stereograph; also to Mr. Beek who came to Pyeng Yang and set it up for us. This makes it possible now to emboss books at such a rate that we may soon have all that are needed instead of requiring three or four students to use the same book as we have had to do in the past. The Bible Societies will give us all the money we need for embossing the Scriptures, and for a "nominal rent" we are privileged to use the stereograph to emboss the other much-needed school text books; but as yet we have no fund for them and must be content with making but two copies at a time on the kleidograph. When we can make these latter in the needed quantities, another of my ideals can be realized: that of having our pupils (who come to us from all parts of Korea) after finishing their special preparatory course with us continue their studies at the registered mission

school or government school nearest their homes, This I am confident will prove the better and more economical way to fit both the blind and the deaf for the gaining of a livelihood and to discharge their duties as loyal and good citizens of the Empire as set forth in the proclamation issued by the Governor General concerning the Chosen educational ordinance. I found while at home on furlough that the experiment of educating the blind in our regular public schools was being tried with success in Milwaukee, Chicago, and New York. Helen Keller is an enthusiastic advocate of this method. She says, "Let the blind child have special teachers to train his hands at the start, then let him have a desk in the class-room with his sighted brothers and sisters; it will prepare him for life and teach them to give him a place in life."

The Government General has promised to supply us with all the text-books embossed in Japanese that we shall need. Since there has been some delay in getting these out, we have not waited, but sent early to Japan for a hand-writing tablet and have embossed in our school a few copies of each book for the study of the Japanese language used in our other schools in Chosen. So already our blind pupils are studying Japanese together with the seeing pupils. We shall be very glad and grateful however to receive free larger supplies of these books.

Our department for the blind and the deaf has received several pleasant visits from Mr. Usami, Director of Internal Affairs; Dr. Segawa, and Secretary Yuge of the Bureau of Education; Governor and Mrs. Matsunaga; Mr. Honda; Surgeon-general Satamura of the Military Hospital; and Drs. Saburi and Mito of the Charity Hospital; and other local officials.

Members of the Oriental Tour party of Sunday School workers enroute for Zurich who visited Pyeng Yang were also much interested. Mr. Frank L. Brown secured a picture of the blind girl whom a class in his Sunday School has been supporting.

I cannot be too grateful to the Korean and Japanese teachers and the foreign principals for their help in the education of these less fortunate ones. This year also Miss Trissell of the foreign school here has given our blind girls valuable instruction in foreign basketry, in which they do her credit. Miss Samuels arranged to give Chyun Quang Myong the course in the Syun Chyun Bible Institute together with the seeing women. We were able to furnish her with the same text books embossed, and Miss Samuels reported her the star member of the class!

Beside learning to make kimchi, to cook, wash, iron clean, sew, mend, and knit, and make baskets, our pupils are this year making straw hassocks, and the straw sandals commonly worn in Korea. If they make enough to supply our pupils it will be a great help. No industrial work is really profitable financially unless a monopoly is secured for it like I found the city of St. Augustine, Florida, giving its state school for the blind in broom-making—the whole city buying their brooms of them and them only. Japan also practically gives massage as a monopoly to the blind. As a means of manual training and general education, however, all these things are most valuable. Our pupils also assist in the proof-reading and binding of their own text books, one deaf boy is serving an apprenticeship with a Korean photographer, and the smaller boys all work at gardening and go on errands. So they get a fairly complete industrial training.

As to finances: for the year beginning April 1, 1912 and ending Mar. 31, 1913, we have received in yen from Mrs. N. R. Rockwell, 997.52, from the W. F. M. S., Mr. Kemble, Mr. Rosemond, and other friends in foreign countries, 939.48, and from Korean patrons and friends upon the field, 551.46; total, yen 2,488.46 for both departments. We have expended for teachers, yen 686; fuel and paper, 290; food, water, and some clothing, 1,217.48; leaving a balance on hand Apr. 1, 1913, of

yen 294.98. I am pleased to report that the W. F. M. S. has taken two more scholarships for this year and also the salary of the teacher for the deaf girls and I have heard that Mrs. Reynolds of Brooklyn, N. Y. has donated thru the W. F. M. S. yen 1,000 in memory of her deaf-mute brother toward erecting our long-needed dormitories.

We have had some nice boxes from the homeland; also packages thru parcel post with supplies that have been very helpful; and express our appreciation and thanks, and desire for more hospital gingham in plain tints that our girls like so well for jackets and skirts; also yarns, both wool and cotton, with knitting-needles, which will somehow get lost in time; also towels. Dominoes for the blind, and kindgarten and other special supplies for both the blind and the deaf would be much appreciated. I would recommend sending any or all of these by parcel-post rather than in a box by freight.

O Pong-nai, baptized Prudence, who was our very first pupil and one of the first to finish the course of the primary school, has been employed as a pupil-teacher and later as special teacher for the blind for some years now. She is an orphan (the daughter of the first Christian convert in Dr. W. J. Hall's work here) and since one brother died and the other ran away, she has been alone in the world. She has been economically saving from her small salary and placing the money on special current account in the Bank of Chosen, Pyeng Yang, looking forward to some higher school work when there should be another ready to take her place. Chyun Quang Myong is now ready to do this most acceptably—in some way she is superior, being more self-reliant and believing there is nothing the blind may not do well. She reads and writes Korean, Japanese, Chinese, and English; has a good mathematical mind; sews and does all kinds of housework better than many seeing housewives; she knits many useful articles; makes baskets, straw-shoes, and mats; and plays the organ.

At Prudence's request and at her own expense, we are letting her off at the close of this term to go to Japan where she will enter Mrs. Van Petten's school for the blind in Yokohama to perfect her Japanese first and then, next school year, to enter the Government school for the blind at Tokyo and take the normal course there. I am contemplating sending also Chyo Fanny who is now in her last year at Pyeng Yang Union Academy, to join Prudence at Tokyo.

Popai, our first deaf pupil in the girls' dormitory, was brought to us in 1909 at the age of 18, by a relative, one of our blind students. She worked diligently, learned to read and write well and to articulate some, and was such good help to the matron that when the farmer brother of Yi Moksa made known his desire to marry Po-pai we hardly knew how to spare her. But feeling that that was the kind of girl who should marry and that such an opportunity would not come every day, after consulting her relatives, we concluded the arrangement and they were happily married Mar. 30, 1912, in the church at Chil-san-li, where the groom and family attend. Last month Po-pai come to visit the school and show us her precious son, the first grandchild of our school and one with whom we are all much pleased. I am told that Po-pai makes a dutiful daughter-in-law, a loving wife, and she seems a most affectionate mother. I trust many of our pupils both blind and deaf may do as well.

“Only the prism's obstruction shows aright
The secret of a sunbeam, breaks its light
Into the jewelled bow from blankest white;
So may glory from defect arise.
Only by Deafness may the vexed Love wreak
Its insuppressive sense on brow and cheek,
Only by Dumbness adequately speak
As favored mouth could never, thru the eyes.”

BROWNING.